The Poetical Gazette

The Official Journal of the Poetry Society and a Review of Poetical Affairs.

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TO FORGOTTEN POETS

We wonder did men hear your songs
  As children hear the distant sea
Within a shell, nor know the source
  To be life's melody?

We wonder did you walk alone?
  And did men's ways seem rough and rude?
Would you have been less lonely in
  Immortal solitude?

O, dear forgotten dreamers, would
  Some other age, some other place
Have lifted you on Fame's broad wings
  Into immortal space?

Where never singer falls on sleep
  Who does not leave to those awake
Such songs that men cannot forget
  The singer for their sake.

KATHARINE M. E. VAUGHAN.

THE STUDY OF POETRY

AMONG the advantages arising from the study of poetry we should not overlook its importance as a means of strengthening the memory, of improving the young in the art of reading, and of qualifying them for a profitable study of their mother tongue. To explain the different modes of reading applicable to the several kinds of poetry does not come within the scope of this article.

It is sufficient to observe that the art of reading poetry aloud and well, with due regard to emphasis and intonation, is one of no ordinary difficulty. It demands careful and accurate attention; it requires a diversity of qualifications and the observance of a few general rules; it constitutes an essential branch of a good education; and yet it is too generally neglected, even in our best schools.

"The great tendency of poetry," says Channing, in his masterly essay on Milton, "is to carry the mind beyond and above the beaten, dusty, weary walks of ordinary life; to lift it into a purer element; and to breathe into it more profound and generous emotion. It reveals to us the loveliness of nature, brings back the freshness of youthful feelings, revives the relish of simple pleasures, keeps unquenched the enthusiasm which warmed the spring-time of our being, strengthens our interests in human nature by vivid delineations of its tenderest and loftiest feelings, knits us by new ties with universal beings, and through the brightness of its prophetic visions helps faith to lay hold on the future life."

Descriptions of the seasons, the revolutions of day and night, the sublime phenomena of nature, the charms of beautiful scenery, the various occupations and modes of life, the social and domestic affections, the love of the mother-land, portraits of eminent characters, lyric and ballad poetry—all these fertile topics open up a copious source of knowledge and intellectual gratification to the reader of poetry of all ages and of every variety of taste.

"Works of philosophy and science," says a biographical writer, "are only the study of a few superior minds," but the productions of imagination are perused by people of every description.

The pleasure we derive from the works of the poets naturally leads us to reflect on their characters; we feel more acquainted with them than with authors of a different description; and it is only in them that we not only allow egotism, but perhaps feel most interested when they speak of themselves.

We feel the deepest sympathy in Milton's blindness; in reading Cowper we delight in the sweet shades of Olney, and wish we could participate in the intellectual conversation of its drawing-room. How much do we lament that we know so little of Shakespeare, who knew so much of us all; whose living scenes could depict every human heart and lay open its inmost feelings; whose portraits represent the concealed villain in his native colours, till the resemblance awakens the anguish of remorse; whose wild imagery transports us to a different region of existence; whose tenderness softens the hardest, whose sublimity exalts the lowest, and whose humour rouses the most torpid mind!

One wonders at the tendency of the present time to the neglect of the poets, for poetry constitutes, with all who look upon education in its true light, that of the formation of character, an important means of refining and elevating the mind, of cultivating the sympathies of our nature, and of improving those habits of perception and adaptation which are so valuable to all.

We wonder, too, that it is not regarded as a means of introducing the young, harmlessly and without danger, to a study of the human heart, without some knowledge of which the best intentions are apt to fail in effect, and the noblest efforts to fall short of the good proposed.

In the words of Coleridge, "Poetry has been to me an exceeding great reward; it has soothed my affliction; it has multiplied and refined my enjoyments; it has endeared my solitude; and it has given me the habit of wishing to discover the Good and the Beautiful in all that meets and surrounds me."

ETTA BLACKE.

During the last month the following notable additions were made to the Society's list of patrons or vice-presidents:—The Marchioness of Londonderry, Mr. William Watson, Mr. George Macaulay Trevelyan, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, and Mrs. Jopling Rowe.

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Everywhere we are meeting with a greater recognition of poetry as an essential factor in life. The writer of a practical article on "The Bedroom Bookshelf," in the "ladies' pages" of a recent issue of the *Pall Mall Gazette* gives the following pertinent advice:—"Put some volumes of poetry among your books—and read them. Poetry keeps the heart young, and, if the beauty and passion of certain verse brings a regretful sigh it will also help you to understand what the young people about you may be feeling at the moment. Poetry is the best specific for keeping the heart and mind young."

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE POETRY SOCIETY

While recognising the absolute necessity of an official Journal, the Council has been faced with the difficulty of issuing it more frequently than three times a year, although a monthly issue is essential for the Journal if it is to fulfil its functions as a gazette and a means of communication between headquarters and centres and members. A monthly issue, however, was impossible at this stage of the society's development, unless membership subscription had been doubled.

But, by the courtesy of the proprietors of THE ACADEMY, the Council is now able to issue the POETICAL GAZETTE monthly as a special supplement to THE ACADEMY. Members will appreciate this highly satisfactory arrangement, whereby once a month they will receive not only the POETICAL GAZETTE—which will fill with a greater degree of continuity its chief office as the official journal of the society, and will preserve and develop the literary features which caused it to be so much appreciated by members and many non-members—but also a copy of the leading literary journal. The advantages are so apparent and the gain to members and the society so considerable that we feel sure members will not object to paying a small extra sum for the privilege of obtaining the two journals monthly. Their contribution towards the extra expense of this monthly issue is a very small one, each member being required to pay 1s. to headquarters direct or through the local secretary, in return for which the POETICAL GAZETTE and the particular issue of THE ACADEMY of which it forms a part, will be supplied for six months. The advantage of this scheme is obvious when we point out we should have been obliged to ask members to pay at least half the nominal price of the POETICAL if it had been issued independently.

Centre secretaries will see that this arrangement is brought to the notice of members, and will collect the 1s. contribution to the Journal fund, and remit to headquarters by the end of the current month.

A further privilege is offered members—that of becoming regular subscribers to THE ACADEMY at a reduced rate. The ordinary subscription rate to the weekly issue is 15s. per annum; members of the Poetry Society may obtain it for 10s. per annum, or 2s. 6d. per quarter, post free, provided it is ordered through headquarters; otherwise ordinary subscription rates will apply.

Members will be expected to keep themselves acquainted with the society's movements and developments and announcements as recorded in the monthly Gazette, which will enable us to give adequate notice of forthcoming events.

In subsequent months the POETICAL will be issued as a supplement to THE ACADEMY on the first Saturday in each month.

Additional copies of the combined journals may be obtained at the ordinary price through any newsagent.

In future copies of the Journal will not be available for propaganda purposes till a fortnight after publication.

THE POETRY SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

A SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL MEETING.

THE Poetry Society was introduced to South Australia last year by Lady Symon, wife of Sir Josiah Symon, senior Senator of the State in the Commonwealth Parliament, and ex-Attorney-General for the Commonwealth. In May last the inaugural meeting of the South Australian branch was held at Adelaide, and the *Adelaide Daily Herald* published the following interesting report:

There was a brilliant function at the banqueting room, Town Hall, when the inaugural meeting of the Poetry Society of South Australia was held. Lady Bosanquet (wife of the Governor of South Australia) has accepted the presidency of the society, which has for its vice-presidents his Honour Sir John Gordon, Senator Sir Josiah Symon, K.C., the Hon. P. McM. Glynn, and Mr. Archibald Mackie. The council consists of Lady Symon, Misses Heyne and Leworthy, and Messrs. H. W. Uffindell, and H. A. Parsons.

Mr. Mackie read an address to Lady Bosanquet, in which it was stated:

> "We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to secure your ladyship as our first president, and we recognise that in accepting that office you honour us, and, at the same time, evince your deep interest in the cause of culture in South Australia. Before calling upon your ladyship to declare the society formed, we beg leave to ask your gracious acceptance of this small token of our appreciation of your ladyship's distinguished presence here this evening. It is a book of poems by Agnes L. Storrie. This selection has been made for two reasons, viz., the high excellence of the lines and the fact that they are from the pen of a lady who was born near Adelaide."

THE NEED FOR THE SOCIETY.

In declaring the society formed, Lady Bosanquet said:

> "I am very gratified at being here this evening, and to feel I am the first President of the Poetry Recital Society of South Australia. I think in these prosaic days, when yearly those who care for, appreciate, and write poetry appear to be fewer in number, that a society which aims at teaching us, not only to appreciate and understand, but also to endeavour to emulate the rhythm, the sympathy, and force of those past masters in poetry, who though they have gone from amongst us, have left behind them the echoes of their songs to go sounding down the ages, should receive our warmest support, and the originator of it our deep gratitude—for life is not only a stern reality, it needs softer, brighter touches to cheer us on our way, and those bright touches come to each and all of us at times when we read in poetry of great and noble deeds, of high and beautiful thoughts, that have come to nobler minds than ours, but that by their strength and power raise us for the moment to their level. And anything that ennobles us, if even only for a passing moment, is a good, an everlasting good to our earth-bound souls. Poetry has a great and noble place in this world, and often the words we read, though they seem to pass away from our minds, may in after years come back to strengthen and comfort us in moments of trouble and despair. We have had great historians, men of science, artists, sculptors, who have all in their day helped and ennobled mankind, but who has ever given men strength to endure, courage in despair, help to overcome difficulties, or enabled them to realise the beauties of the world in which they live, and the power of love, as have the soul-stirring words of the earth's greatest poet, the Shepherd King, David? I feel sure that this society,

now in its infancy, has a great future before it, more especially if all its members are those who really and truly love poetry, for as another immortal poet tells us:

"'It is the heart and not the brain
That to the highest does attain.'"

The Reading of Poetry.

Sir John Gordon said he was a very ardent lover of poetry, and also a persistent reciter—to himself. He had a four-mile walk every day, and during the time so occupied he was constantly murmuring something to himself, and it was mostly poetry that occupied his attention. But for him poetry must have rhythm—he detested a ragged rhythm. When he was a boy his father had told him to learn Collins' Ode, but he could not manage to do it, although he struggled at the task. His father thought he had not tried, and reproached him; but his mother interfered in the interests of peace, and promised that if he would learn the ode by the next morning he should have two eggs for his breakfast. (Laughter.) And when there were nine children, all whales on eggs, in a poor minister's family, that was a big thing to promise. He did not think he quite succeeded in learning the ode, but he rather thought he got the two eggs.

The cadence of rhyme had something the same effect as a good smoke to a man, or, as he had heard, the gentle brushing of the hair had to woman—it was a narcotic. The habit of reciting as one walked had one or two drawbacks. He had experienced one of them the other day. He happened to own a little piece of land on which he allowed people to run racehorses. He enjoyed it by walking round it. Recently he was walking along reciting to himself as he went. He was in "full fig," had become rather excited, and was waving his stick as he walked. Just as he approached the Lunatic Asylum he passed one of the transverse hedges traversing the course when he came upon a group of boys playing. One of the lads, who he was sure would be a future Napoleon, grasped the situation and shouted to his comrades, "Boys, he's mad. Run for your lives." (Laughter.)

The human voice, continued Sir John Gordon, was the most beautiful organ in the world, and poetry could not be enjoyed so much from the mere reading as from its declamation—just as there were very few people who could thoroughly enjoy music merely from reading the score. The charm to the ear, the melody, and the music constituted only a very small part of the service poetry had rendered, and was still rendering, to mankind. Millions of men had been inspired by it before the invention of printing, and by the same means mankind was still being inspired to brave and courageous deeds.

The Greatness of Poetry.

Senator Sir Josiah Symon said Sir John Gordon, who, although he had told them that he was an ardent lover of poetry, had not mentioned the fact that he was a poet himself—and there was no one more competent to lead them through the realms of poesy. His task had been lightened by the address of Lady Bosanquet, and he thought it would be difficult for them to secure a better president for the society. He had also been assisted by the fact that Adelaide was the city of culture in Australia. That statement was not unchallenged, but as it had been received from an eminent literary gentleman who had spent a short time amongst them he intended to hold on to the title as long as possible.

The name of the society proclaimed that it was concerned with poetry. The poet pointed the lessons that were to be learnt from the beauty, the sweetness, the sorrow, and the grandeur of Nature. Poetry must be spontaneous and natural, for if it were forced or artificial the result would be fatal. It was the most beautiful of all written things—the golden path of literature. All great poetry was tinged by the thought and reflected the spirit of the age to which it belonged. But all poetry was not epic. And lyric poetry it was that came home most to the hearts of the people. What would be the fate of poetry in these days of machinery it would be hard to tell, as it was difficult to imagine the muse voyaging in a smell of petrol instead of that of hay. There was no school that opened to them the mother tongue like that of poetry. The utility of the society would lie in creating a public taste. Education belonged to the nation, but a man's culture rested with himself, and that was why they appealed to the individual. He was an ardent believer in reading aloud. He thought that the schools failed to some extent in that direction. The English language was worth reading aloud, and it was worth reading well. In poetry they had the treasures of the English tongue arrayed in all their perfections.

Australian Poetry.

The society desired to cultivate the sense of poetry where it did not already exist. It also desired to give a special share of attention to Australian poetry—both for what it was and what it must become. The poetry of the Southern Cross did not yet possess the abundance or the richness of that of England. But there was much Australian poetry of a fine—some of it very fine—quality. They had poets who described their land with a vividness that was peculiarly Australian. Australia should become the nursing mother of the arts—of music, of poetry, and of painting—in the southern seas. The divine breath of poesy was present, although life was yet too strenuous in work and in play to give imagination an opportunity for full expression. Australians need more leisure. The Australian poets should beware of the conscious or unconscious imitation of the poetry of other countries. They must make their poetry original, national, and characteristic. The society could give encouragement to Australian poetry by providing an appreciative public. To the poets he would say, "Let not failure, even long-continued failure, daunt you." The great Australian poet was to come. The wreath was waiting; where were the brows to bear it? (Cheers.)

Following on an address by Mr. Glynn, which we hope to publish later, it was announced that centres of the society would shortly be formed in the various suburbs. The society's thanks were extended to Lady Bosanquet, Lady Symon, Sir John Gordon, Sir Josiah Symon, and Mr. Glynn, and the opinion was expressed that after the splendid beginning that had been made, and the excellent examples that had been set, the standard of work accomplished should be very high.

"The Rosary" (Thomas Howitt Mason; Andrew Melrose, 1s. 6d. net) is a dainty little volume prettily bound, but much of the verse is incomprehensible.

* *

"Poems" (Evelyn Moore; George Routledge and Son, Ltd., 1s. 6d.) is a little book of verses, which show feeling and imagination. "Answered" expresses pleasantly a thought that has occurred to most of us, although we do not approve of the rhyming in the last stanza:

How do you sleep and rest—that all too soon,
Unwearied and unwilling went away
To death? Time did but lead you towards your noon;
Live purpose lit the morning of your day.

Even here I saw the ceaseless inner sense
Show through the thin appearance of your sleep,
Broken and vexed with dreams of diligence,
O, seven-day working soul, how do you keep

Your Sabbath!—you that never found the charm
Of peace, nor e'er sat idle in the sun;
You, like the sea without her moods of calm;
You, like the shallow streams that flash and run?

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

ACTIVE PROPAGANDA WORK.

THE first annual meeting of the Poetry Society was held in the Throne Room of the Holborn Restaurant on May 25, in accordance with notice given in the April issue of the journal. Mr. S. Watson, hon. solicitor, presided.

The Chairman remarked that when the attendance at the annual meeting of a society or company was small, as that afternoon, it was understood that members were satisfied with affairs. The very highly successful anniversary dinner had done much to make known and establish the Society.

The Director read the following report, which was received and adopted on the motion of Mr. McAlpine, seconded by Miss Hallam.

"All of you are aware from the journal and other sources of what has been done by the Society during its first year of existence. But necessarily the greater part of the work has been below the surface. The work of the Society has demanded more constant attention and care than was at first imagined. And a great part of the unremitting co-related effort that has been made has not borne immediate fruit. If we are not working for posterity, we are at least working for the future, and the work of the past year will be more evident in the coming year. Much that we have done has been experimental, and results showed us what could and ought to be done—they showed forcibly how desirable, even necessary, such a Society is. It remains with us to develop on the lines of the experience thus gained.

CENTRE ORGANISATION.

"Centre organisation is, and will remain, the chief object and strength of the Society. It is the most practical way of making membership effective, of giving every member an active interest in the Society, and also of influencing the general public. Through its centres the influence of poetry should be brought to bear on all sections of the community throughout the English-speaking world. We have experienced more difficulty than we expected in forming centres. The practical value and scope of any movement, however desirable and worthy, are not realised at once, and all the best people are not attracted immediately. We have had to exercise discretion in selecting local organisers, even when they have been forthcoming. In many places we have not been able to find members with sufficient enthusiasm, energy, influence, and character to undertake the formation of a local centre. What can be done when the right person takes the work up and is actively identified with it has been shown in the cases of Hampstead, Kensington, Bristol, in particular. Other branches now active, or in course of formation, are Hull, Lewisham, Streatham, Plymouth, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Nottingham, Dublin, Cork, Elstree, Aberdeen, and Belfast (where Dr. Maginn, fired with enthusiasm by the dinner, has taken up the work with spirit. We have members scattered throughout the English-speaking world, and in Australia a large Australasian branch has been formed by Lady Symon. We have no doubt branches will be formed much more rapidly in the coming autumn. It is highly essential that this should be so, and that membership should increase in much greater numbers, for the success of the Society in every respect depends on a large membership, the Society, like its subscription, being on a democratic basis, with the intention of its being strong numerically, as well as representative, appealing to all cultured people everywhere.

"We have not received as much help from many of the original members as we had the right to expect. We looked to them as being the missionaries of the Society, themselves poetry lovers and readers, who while welcoming, did not personally need, such a Society, but joined it in order to bring others under an influence they already felt and recognised. Headquarters look to centres, and through centres to members, for active, hearty assistance in all the work undertaken by the Society. Membership is not a selfish business, and not for personal pleasure and advantage only, but it carries responsibilities towards the Society and towards those who are not members yet. The burden of carrying on and extending the Society should not be left to an ardent few, however agreeable to bearing it the few are. We expect more from members than their subscription. Their relation to the Society, of which they form an integral part, is not a cash one entirely, one for which they are provided with a certain number of pleasant meetings, and are brought into touch with other people with a common interest. The Society needs their help in many ways, not only in adding to the membership, but in making possible the special meetings, through which we hope to reach the outside public. We are not members of the P.R.S. merely for our own edification.

SPECIAL MEETINGS.

"During last winter we arranged a number of general meetings in London, and we shall be able to arrange a series of lectures open to all members during next autumn and winter. But we find that membership meetings are best arranged by and through the centre organisations. Headquarters and centres must keep in touch and work together to make membership actual and effective. The meetings for which headquarters are responsible will become more and more extraordinary meetings, developing the policy of the Society, but intended to supplement certain meetings, and to reach the public at large. This is the more public side of our work, and while whenever possible members will take precedence of the general public, and where a charge for admission is made will be offered nominal rates, yet such meetings must be regarded from the propaganda standpoint, and additional to ordinary membership privileges. Thus it would not be the desire of members to confine the Over-seas poetry evening to be held shortly to London members only, or to abandon such a meeting if it were found not feasible to hold it for members only. It is better for such a meeting to be open to the public whom it is likely to attract, so that our movement may be extended and funds provided for general purposes. In the same way it is proposed that a feature be made of the meeting Sir E. Shackleton has promised to attend, admitting the general public at a charge which will make them realise the advantages of being members of the Society. This reminds me that such special meetings must be promoted and used in order to supplement membership fees in providing the much needed funds for propaganda work. All such fixtures involve a lot of work in the arranging of details, advertising, printing, selling tickets, etc., over and above the necessity for headquarters having funds for general expenses of administration and organisation, the issue of the journal, the expenses of popular meetings at which no charge can be made, etc.

"With the formation of centres we shall be able to hold public recitals throughout the kingdom, at which qualified exponents of the art of speaking verse will be able to show the general public what an exquisite pleasure can be derived from the reading of poetry. We should be able to send a small company of readers and speakers on tour in the autumn. For the autumn

lectures, with a view to stimulating the formation of centres, have been offered by Mr. Maurice Browne and Mr. Harold Munro, both highly qualified and suitable gentlemen. Reference was also made to the successful anniversary dinner, which had excited general interest, and brought the Society prominently before the public, and been instrumental in promoting the general objects of the Society, and to the Chaucer recital given that day under the direction of Mr. Daniel Jones."

The following letter from Lady Margaret Sackville, dated Edinburgh, May 3, 1910, was read:—

"I regret having to resign the Presidency of the Society. I recognise that it has high ideals, which it is sincerely endeavouring to carry out. I shall always sympathetically watch the development of its main idea—the intelligent speaking of verse, which is a very misunderstood art at the present day. Circumstances prevent me from taking an active part in the carrying out of the scheme, but if you succeed in changing the conventional conception as to how poetry should be spoken, you will have done a very good work. With my best wishes for the Society's success,

"Believe me, sincerely yours,
"MARGARET SACKVILLE."

On the motion of the Chairman, who remarked that Lady Margaret wished to produce a poetical play in the autumn (probably "The Duke of Gandia" or "Luria," by arrangement with Mr. Watts Dunton), the resignation was accepted, and Lady Margaret was thanked for her services in the formation of the Society, regret being expressed that her frequent absence from London prevented her taking a more active part in the Society's work.

Miss Lloyd moved the following resolution, of which due notice had been given:—

"That the name of the Society be changed by the omission of the word 'Recital,' the Society to be known as 'The Poetry Society,' founded as the Poetry Recital Society, to encourage the private and public reading of poetry, to develop the art of speaking verse, and to obtain a wider recognition and appreciation of poetry."

Mr. Sturge Moore seconded, and in the general discussion which ensued it was pointed out that the original name of the Society had been considered experimental, expressing rather the means than the end in view, and some ambiguity would be avoided by the simplification of the name, the word "Recital," which had been considered more expressive and attractive than "Reading," having led to frequent misconception. The simplified form, which had been considered too ambitious and vague, was more acceptable now the great scope and potentialities of the Society had been better realised and understood, and would not signify any deviation from the recognised and clearly defined objects of the Society. An amendment to defer final consideration of the question having been defeated, the resolution was agreed to.

The Chairman said Lord Coleridge had intimated his willingness to be elected President for one year. This was a great honour to the Society from every point of view, not only on account of his Lordship's prominent position and his connection with one of the greatest of English poets, but also because of his personal interest in, and deep knowledge of, poetry. The Rev. F. de W. Lushington seconded, and the motion was carried by acclamation.

The following having been nominated were elected members of the Council:—Mr. Alfred Perceval Graves, Mr. R. Hambly, Miss L. Lloyd, Miss Julie Huntsman, Mr. J. Henniker-Heaton, and Madame San Carola.

The Treasurer was prevented from attending by political work, and the statement of accounts was not to hand. This latter was ordered to be printed and circulated with the report, and is appended.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST APRIL, 1910.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Loan	63	8	0	By Prelim. expenses	9	15	8
,, Subscriptions and donations ...	115	17	9	,, Refund	12	4	6
,, Meetings	5	9	0	,, Rent, coals, &c....	56	17	3
,, Dinner	97	12	0	,, Dinner	77	7	0
,, Sale of books ...	5	7	9	,, Salaries	60	13	9
,, Advertising ...	16	7	9	,, Publishing and Stationery ...	45	1	4½
,, Exam. fees ...	0	2	0	,, General Office expenses	5	19	9
				,, Postage	34	1	10
				,, Cash at bankers	0	6	3
				,, Cash in hand ...	1	16	10½
					2	3	1½
	304	4	3		304	4	3

Compiled from the books of the Society:
The Triangle Secretarial Office,
E. M. THOMSON, Secretary.

REVIEW

A Practical Handbook on Elocution. By ROSE L. PATRY. (Swan, Sonnenschein and Co. 3s. net.)

Miss Patry's book is a practical and comprehensive work. From a short and concise analysis of the various forms of poetry, through a systematic elocution drill, she leads to the appropriate method of giving expression to poetry by means of voice, pose, and gesture.

Her system of training and developing the voice with the aid of music is much to be commended; it enlarges the compass of the speaking voice, thus mitigating any tendency to monotonous delivery.

We could wish she had not insisted so much on the development of the abdominal muscles in breathing, without insisting equally on the importance of keeping and developing the elasticity of the upper chest walls. The modern method of "deep" breathing tends to neglect the upper parts of the lungs, and this in many cases gives rise to a protruding of the lower ribs and a lessening of movement in the upper lungs, resulting sometimes in a "fixed" chest and the evils attending such a condition. Eventually the voice becomes hard and strained, and the figure abnormally large round the waist. Teachers of elocution little realise this; in fact, it is considered by many indispensable that the lower ribs should protrude and the waist be enlarged. Modern medical science, however, is realising that there are dangers attached to this method.

In all other points the book is much to be commended. Those who wish for a clear enunciation in reading or speaking, equally with those studying elocution as an art, cannot do better than practise the exercises most suited to remedy their own defects in the infinite variety submitted to their selection.—C. M. M.

Apropos of the Society's desire to give entertainments in connection with popular gatherings, it has been proposed that a recital company, to be known as "The Poeticals," be formed to fill engagements on behalf of University settlements and other social and religious institutions. We shall be glad to hear from members able to take part in this practical effort to develop a popular interest in and taste for poetry. We should be glad also to hear from persons willing and qualified to take charge of centres in working-class districts, and in connection with factory girls' and other clubs. The complete and definite organisation of this work is very desirable. We can find plenty of scope for the efforts of leisured, cultured volunteer helpers.

THE APPEAL OF THE POETRY SOCIETY

OPEN LETTER FROM LORD COLERIDGE.

The wide appeal of the Poetry Society is indicated in the following letter from the President:—

SIR,—This Society has been founded to nourish the love of Poetry in the heart of man.

In a material age there is need to keep alive the imaginative side of human life.

The object of those who have started the Society will be attained in proportion to the public support which it receives.

At present contribution to the ordinary membership has been fixed as low as five shillings a year in the hope that support may come from every class. But it is obvious that not much active work can be done unless the membership attains to great numbers.

To supplement this, honorary membership at one guinea a year, and life membership at ten guineas are offered to those who are in sympathy with the cause, and whose means may enable them to assist.

At present all the work is done by the officers of the Society without fee or reward, for which the Society is grateful.

Already we have encouragement from the Colonies, and local gatherings have been held and are in contemplation to bring together the lovers of Poetry by recitals, by discussion, and in other ways to stimulate the love of the Poets, and to spread far and wide their message to man.

Information may be had from the Secretary, and subscriptions and donations may be sent to the Treasurer at Clun House, Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.

COLERIDGE, President.

The Society has much need of personal help. Persons qualified to take an active part in the formation of local centres would be particularly welcomed. We want a centre not only in every town, in every place which has a musical festival or society, but in every parish and village. Our field is the more open because we do not compete with any other Society—ours is not a work of supererogation, we are not doing what another body is doing as effectively and thoroughly. And we also need financial support to enable us to carry on our propaganda and organisation more adequately.

As a practical development of the Society's work and a qualified demonstration of the art of speaking verse, it is proposed to give a series of recitals at the Steinway Hall, under the management of Mr. T. Arthur Russel. Before embarking on this desirable enterprise, however, it is necessary to raise a guarantee fund, although we are advised there is every likelihood of a twelve-weeks' season being successful financially.

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Dr. F. S. Boas, who is to lecture on behalf of the Society at King's College on November the 4th, is the general secretary of the English Association, and has been much associated with advanced literature teaching. For a number of years he was an Oxford University Extension Lecturer, and subsequently Professor of History and English Literature at Queen's College, Belfast; additional Examiner in English to Edinburgh University; Clark Lecturer in English at Trinity College, Cambridge, and now Inspector (English Literature and Language, etc.) L.C.C. Education Department. He has edited a number of the older dramatists and poets, and with such wide experience and knowledge and love of the subject his lecture is sure to be a fine intellectual treat. Sir Frank Marzials, C.B., will appropriately preside; for, in addition to being a poet, his many publications include a well-known life of Robert Browning. We trust members will not only avail themselves of the opportunity thus provided, but will make the lecture widely known.

CENTRE REPORTS

A Centre is being formed at the King's Weigh House, Thomas Street, Grosvenor Square, W., with the Rev. E. W. Lewis as president. It was inaugurated on October 14 with a special recital by Miss Clara Reed. Another special recital, to which all interested are invited, will be given in the Lounge on Friday evening, October 28, when the President will give a short address.

Ordinary Centre meetings will be held fortnightly in the drawing-room of the King's Weigh House Club, and on each alternate Friday evening a teaching centre will be conducted by Miss Reed. Encouraging interest is being taken in this development by several of the large West-End business houses, and the Centre has the warm approval of the Rev. R. J. Campbell.

A South Hampstead Centre is being formed by Mme. Fischer-Sobell, and a meeting will be held shortly at 157, King Henry's Road, Swiss Cottage. This new Centre will relieve the senior Hampstead Centre, which has grown prodigiously, owing to members drawn from a very large area attending its meetings.

A meeting of members in the Clapham district will be held shortly in order to form a local Centre. We are in great need of an active organiser in this district.

A South African branch is being formed by Mme. Raffalovich (Charlotte Mansfield), who is being enthusiastically supported.

To promote the application of the technique of elocution to the art of speaking and reading verse, the Society is prepared to recommend efficient teachers to secondary and other schools. Further details may be obtained from the office of the Society.

Members of the Council are reminded that the ordinary monthly meetings of the Council are held on the last Wednesday in each month at 3.30 p.m. Next meeting, October 26.

EASTBOURNE.

A branch of the Society has been formed at Eastbourne, Councillor J. E. Wright, F.R.S.L., having been elected the first President. Three monthly meetings have been held, at two of which short poems have been read by members, each poem and its reading having subsequently formed the subject of fruitful discussion. For the ensuing winter it has been decided to discuss Shakespeare's "Coriolanus," and a character has been allotted to each member of the Society. Major H. P. Molineux, J.P., has consented to become a Patron, and the Hon. Sec. is Mr. J. H. Hardcastle, Public Library, Eastbourne.

HAMPSTEAD.

The meetings of this Centre are held at 150, Finchley Road, on the first and third Tuesday in each month. At the last meeting on October 4 members gave selections from living poets, the president, Lady Strachey, reading poems by Henry Newbolt and R. Bridges; while Miss Julie Huntsman abridged Yeates's charming "Land of Heart's Desire"; Miss E. S. Bass chose "Daff and Winnie," by Alfred Noyes, and Mr. Kelly "In June," by Alfred Austin. Amongst other readers were Miss D. N. Hallam, Miss Rossi, and Miss Ottaway. The president proposed, and Miss Julie Huntsman seconded, a vote of thanks to Miss S. M. English, the retiring hon. secretary, who is going abroad. She is succeeded by Miss E. Vaughan Jenkins, 31, Antrim Mansions, South Hampstead, N.W.

HULL.

Interest continues to be maintained. We expect an increase of membership beginning of next year. Meetings are held fortnightly, and are well attended. F. J. Popham, hon. sec., 29, Lambert Street, Hull.

NORTH LONDON.

Secretary: Miss Jessie Wright, "Dereholm," Oakleigh Road, New Southgate.

A most successful summer session has been enjoyed by the members of this Centre. In the early summer a Milton evening was held, opened by a paper by the vice-president, Mr. S. E. Wise, on the Life of Milton, followed by readings of selections from Milton's works and concluded by a part reading of "Comus." On the ensuing Saturday afternoon several members made a pilgrimage to Milton's Cottage at Chalfont St. Giles—a most delightful expedition.

Mrs. Richardson, of Oakleigh Park, kindly entertained the members to tea in July and lent her beautiful garden for the reading of out-of-door poetry. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind, but the nature poetry of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and others (including Mr. Rudyard Kipling's well-known lines on Sussex) was much enjoyed even within doors.

A meeting was arranged for in a glade in Epping Forest, with "Elizabethan Nature Poetry" for the subject, but owing to several reasons this had to be cancelled.

On September 29 the opening meeting of the winter session was held, when, after a paper on the Life of Tennyson, members read and recited selections from Tennyson's works, and a rendering of Tennyson's drama, "The Falcon," was given by four members.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, and the subject will be "The Work of Living Poets."

With much regret we have to announce the temporary resignation of our president, Mrs. Grace Carlton, B.A., who has left town for some months. In her absence Mr. S. E. Wise has kindly consented to act as president.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

The autumn session will begin with a meeting at the Clifton Arts Club. Professor Cowl (Professor of Literature, Bristol University) is President, with Canon Talbot, Professor Leonard, and Professor Gerothwhol vice-presidents, and the Rev. Tabor Davis treasurer. The secretary, Miss J. P. Nott, Felixstowe, Clifton, would be glad to give information to local inquirers.

For information respecting the following Centres, apply to the local secretaries, whose names are attached:—

LEWISHAM: Mr. W. A. Backett, 58, Boyne Road, Lewisham, S.E.

GLASGOW: Miss May Lindsay, Barnfield, Hamilton, N.B.

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY: Miss Johnstone Douglas, Comlongon Castle, Ruthwell, N.B.

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PLYMOUTH: Miss Archer, Naton Hall, Plymouth.

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[Centre secretaries would oblige by sending reports for publication in the Journal not later than the last Saturday in the month.]

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THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY, AS STATED IN THE CONSTITUTION, ARE

To promote, in the words of Matthew Arnold, adopted as a motto, "a clearer, deeper sense of the best in poetry and of the strength and joy to be drawn from it."

To bring together lovers of poetry with a view to extending and developing the intelligent interest in, and proper appreciation of, poetry.

To form local centres and reading circles and encourage the intelligent reading of verse with due regard to emphasis and rhythm and the poet's meaning, and to study and discuss the art and mission of poetry.

To promote and hold private and public recitals of poetry.

To form sub-societies for the reading and study of the works of individual poets.

To publish such poems by new writers as the Council may decide, and to offer premiums for poetry, and take such steps as may be deemed advisable from time to time to popularise interest in poetry and to assist in bringing about "a poetic renaissance."

To establish lectureships and publish a journal and celebrate and commemorate the birth and death-days of poets, and other literary anniversaries.

The ordinary membership subscription is 5s., with an entrance fee of 2s. 6d.; for schools and "institutional centres" a reduced rate applies.

Honorary members (persons eminent in literature or otherwise distinguished who sympathise with the Society but are not able to take an active part in its work) and vice-presidents (presidents of Centres and distinguished active members) pay a minimum membership subscription of one guinea per annum or a life membership fee of ten guineas.

The Society is intended to bind poetry-readers and lovers together throughout the English-speaking world, forming a desirable freemasonry, with poetry—the first and best of all arts—as the connecting link.

By means of local Centres, membership is made active and effective, members meeting together under a President and Council for the reading and study of Poetry and co-operating with Headquarters in the general work of the Society. A member of the Society is a member of the Centre most convenient for him to attend, and a member of any Centre is a member of the Society as a whole and may attend any Centre meetings anywhere on giving notice to the Secretary. This Centre system carries into effect the idea of a poetical freemasonry, a South African member visiting or going to reside in London or South Australia or wherever the Society has a branch being welcomed by and becoming a member of the local group.

Centres or individual members not formed into groups maintain regular communication with the Head Office, from which advice and direction may be obtained with respect to the formation, conduct and programme of Centre meetings, propaganda work, &c., and each Centre is expected to hold at least two public recitals per year with a view to interesting the general public and showing what an exquisite pleasure can be derived from the intelligent reading and speaking of verse.

The Society is the one body dealing with poetry as an ethical and cultural influence of the greatest importance, "redeeming from decay the visitations of the divinity in man," and seeks to bring mankind generally under its influence.

The Society also deals with elocution, and holds periodical examinations of recitals and "auditions" of readers with a view to securing the adoption of better methods and greater attention being given to the technique of reading and speaking. It has also under consideration a scheme for developing its work among schools and colleges.

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